# MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MARCH 1981

## Syrian-Pakistani Relations

Citing an "official Syrian source," AFP reported that Syria has refused to extradite the three Pakistani hijackers who surrendered to the Damascus authorities on 14 March. Since there is no extradition agreement between Pakistan and Syria, the hijackers will be allowed to stay in Syria until they can obtain political asylum in a country of their choice. Karachi radio earlier reported that Pakistan had officially asked Syria to hand over the hijackers.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Meeting--Tunis radio reported that the 75th ordinary session of the Arab League Council opened in Tunis. Speeches by PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah focused on the Palestinian problem, the radio noted. During a closed session the council discussed other items, including the U.S. supply of nuclear reactors to Israel, the radio added.

Kuwaiti Comment on Camp David--An AS-SIYASAH editorial, reviewed by KUNA, defended Egypt for signing the Camp David agreements with Israel under U.S. auspices. It pointed out that the abrogation of the agreements would not be in the interest of the world's confidence in the Arabs, and it urged the Arabs to wait for time to prove who will be the winner and who will be the loser from these agreements.

## YAR

San'a' radio reported that the People's Constituent Assembly has removed parliamentary immunity from former Foreign Minister 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Majid al-Asnaj. According to an earlier report by the Egyptian news agency MENA, the move follows the arrest of Al-Asnaj on treason charges and prepares the way for his trial before a supreme constitutional court.

## Iran

Tehran radio reported that after continuous efforts, fire brigade officials gained control of a fire at the headquarters of the Central Islamic Revolution Committee. According to AFP, the fire engulfed an ammunition depot housed there.

## Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that an Iraqi onslaught on the Gilan-e Gharb front was repulsed with heavy losses. On the other hand, an Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio's overseas service, claimed that Iranian units in the Gilan-e Gharb, Mehran, Shush and Susangerd regions were forced to retreat.

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KARMAL ADDRESSES ARMED FORCES SCHOOLS' GRADUATES

LD232326 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, participated this morning [as heard] in the graduation ceremony of the military academy, the air academy, the technical academy and the military school. He distributed certificates to the young officers of the armed forces. [Kabul in Urdu to South Asia at 1330 GMT on 23 March, in a similar report, dates this ceremony as occurring on 22 March]

At this ceremony, which was conducted in the grand hall of the Defense Ministry headquarters, members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; secretaries and members of the Central Committee; members of the Presidium and the Revolution Council; members of the Council of Ministers; commanders, officers and soldiers of the armed forces; and teachers and officers of the military academy, the air academy, the technical academy and the military school participated.

Prior to the distribution of the certificates, Babrak Karmal congratulated the young officers of the armed forces, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolution Council, the DRA Government and himself, for the successful completion of their army and military education. He thanked those teachers and officers who endeavored to train and educate the officers.

Addressing the brave officers of the armed forces, Babrak Karmal said: It is a pleasure that you courageous youths, on the threshhold of the third anniversary of the victorious Sawr Revolution, are entering the proud armed forces of revolutionary Afghanistan. Trained, educated and full of lofty patriotic aspirations, you will keep the banner of revolution flying and raise it even higher.

Babrak Karmal, whose speech was received by the audience with fervor and continuous applause, added: Under such circumstances, under which all warmongering forces and imperialism, headed by American imperialism, Chinese chauvinism, the military circles of Pakistan and the reaction of the region have waged an undeclared war on an unholy front against revolutionary Afghanistan, all conscientious and informed youths of the homeland, especially the courageous officers and soldiers of the armed forces, have the duty to struggle courageously against the enemies of the people's prosperity and their homeland's progress, with unity and full solidarity and with belief in final victory, under the leadership of the PDPA, defending freedom, territorial integrity, the pride and honor of the beloved homeland and the humane objectives of the Sawr Revolution.

Babrak Karmal said: The revolutionary and historic task of our heroic officers and soldiers will be successfully accomplished when our army, based on new structures and organizations, with special military discipline, within firm military discipline, maintains its unity and solidarity like hardened steel, together with the noble and toiling people, and courageously takes steps for the prosperity of the people, enhancing and bringing progress to beloved Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal added: Our army is not an aggressor; our heroic officers and soldiers are defending peace, freedom, democracy, justice and social progress. They fight heroically against aggressors, murderers, criminals and robbers, who are a barrier to the progress of society and the prosperity of the people and, by shedding [word indistinct] their blood, are safeguarding every inch of their sacred land.

We have taken steps for the growth and perfection of our armed forces and for a national freedom force for defense of peace, independence and progress.

The BAKHTAR agency correspondent reports that after Babrak Karmal completed his revolutionary speech, amid the fervor and emotion of the heroic officers and soldiers, Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi', minister of defense, presented a gift from the Defense Ministry to Babrak Karmal and requested that he distribute the certificates to the young graduates.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that at the beginning of this grand ceremony, Brig Gen Gol Aqa, member of the PDPA Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council Presidium and chief of armed forces political affairs, greeted Babrak Karmal's arrival at Defense Ministry headquarters on behalf of the officers, soldiers and staff of the Defense Ministry, and expressed gratitude for his participation in the graduation ceremony.

At this ceremony, speeches were delivered by the commanders of the military academy, the air academy, the technical academy and the military school. On behalf of the respective officers and teachers, they assured Babrak Karmal that they would not hesitate to sacrifice for the realization of the lofty objectives of the Sawr Revolution.

At the end, representatives of the graduates of the military academy, the air academy, the technical academy and the military school, in the course of speeches on behalf of the young officers of the armed forces, pledged to the heroic party, to the revolutionary government and to Babrak Karmal that [word indistinct] up to the last drop of their blood they will defend the freedom, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and safeguard the gains of the Sawr Revolution.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that before the graduation ceremony, Babrak Karmal, accompanied by members of the Politburo, secretaries and members of the party's Central Committee, members of the Presidium and the Revolution Council and members of the Council of Ministers, opened and inspected the Defense Ministry library.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that when Babrak Karmal arrived at Defense Ministry headquarters, the guard of honor conducted a solemn ceremony and Babrak Karmal, accompanied by the defense minister, inspected them and accepted their offers of respect.

At the entrance to Defense Ministry headquarters, a number of students from the military school presented bunches of flowers to the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, the chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA; these were accepted with thanks. Babrak Karmal had lunch at Defense Ministry headquarters.

REVOLUTION COUNCIL ENDORSES KARMAL SEMIANNUAL REPORT

LD231134 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Mar 81

[DRA Revolution Council Resolution dated 18 March]

[Text] Kabul. The DRA Revolution Council, after hearing the report of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister, pertaining to the activities of the DRA Revolution Council Presidium and the Government from 21 September through 18 March, ratifies the following points:

1. The report of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister, pertaining to the activities of the Revolution Council Presidium and the DRA Government, is fully and completely approved.

2. The DRA Government is instructed to firmly control the application of the DRA Basic Principles and their provisions and values, laws, decrees and decisions by all employees of the government administrative organs and regional organs and by the state authorities and citizens.

3. The DRA Government is instructed to take further measures for strengthening the defense capability of the country, the defense of the gains of the Sawr Revolution, and the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

4. Ministries, departments and regional departments of the state authority and administration are instructed to take practical measures to perfect the activities of the state administrative machinery.

5. Ministries, departments and regional departments of the state authority and administration are instructed to take necessary measures for the application of citizens' legal rights and interests, which are guaranteed by the Basic Principles of the DRA, and to consider citizens petitions and complaints within a specified time and in a just manner.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, chairman of the Revolution Council

RATEBZAD LEAVES FOR ADEN AAPSO MEETING 20 MAR

LD201626 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1430 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo, member of the Revolution Council, chairman of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan and chairman of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization, left for Aden today on behalf of the peace organization at the head of a delegation to participate in the AAPSO General Assembly to be held in the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen from 20 to 26 March. Political problems of the region, plans of international imperialism in this region and AAPSO organizational issues are due to be discussed at the meeting.

GENERAL QADER, DEPUTY PREMIER ARIAN VISIT BALKH

LD231042 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Gen 'Abdol Qader, member of the PDPA Central Committee, head of the Central Committee Department of Justice and Defense and member of the Revolution Council Presidium, and Deputy Premier 'Abdorrashid Arian, minister of justice and attorney general, arrived this morning in Mazar-e Sharif, capital of Balkh Province. They were welcomed by the governor, members of the provincial and city committees, the commander of the military force of Balkh Province, a number of officers of the armed forces and police and heads and employees of the central departments of the province. The BAKHTAR correspondent in the city of Mazar-e Sharif adds that Gen 'Abdol Qader and 'Abdorrashid Arian, accompanied by the governor of Balkh Province and the deputy secretary of the provincial committee, went to the shrine of 'Ali, may God bless him, praised his exalted soul and prayed.

KABUL NEW TIMES REVIEWS ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAST YEAR

LD241004 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 23 Mar (BAKHTAR)--Reviewing the achievements of the DRA in the past year (ended March 20) and prospects for the new year, the Kabul NEW TIMES writes editorially: "Our achievements during 1980-81 were impressive."

"The past year's achievements in social and economic development as tabulated by the State Planning Committee are great if viewed under the circumstances in which the revolutionary Afghanistan lived. The national economy of Afghanistan continued growing in the interest of the working people of Afghanistan.

"It quotes Babrak Karmal's New Year's message in which he said: Last year we made all our efforts to bring about a new atmosphere of democratic legality, trust and cooperation between all the nationalities, and healthy forces of Afghanistan, and an atmosphere of peace and creative work. We defeated the satanic [word indistinct] of the enemies who wanted to undermine the foundation of the social, economic and cultural development of the country. We will not permit anyone to revive horror, tyranny and injustice of the past. That time is gone and can never come again."

The past year, reads the editorial, was indeed a year of difficulties and success. It was in the past year that after the emergence of the new phase of glorious Sawr Revolution and the DRA fundamental principles granted all democratic rights and freedoms to the long-suffered people of the country. It guaranteed the freedom of all nationalities to continue with their customs and culture and enrich them in the interest of the country.

"The new phase of Sawr Revolution laid the foundation of a new just, democratic and national life in the country and provided all possibilities to the people of Afghanistan to forge ahead towards building a new life void of exploitation, injustice, inequality, oppression and despotism. The DRA Government made all preparations for the formation of the vast National Fatherland Front which will constitute the backbone of the new society under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan."

The editorial notes that a large number of the deceived families have returned to their country and taken part in the development efforts launched by the party and DRA Government in the interest of the working class.

"The DRA Government will continue its help to the peasants and farmers and will extend all agricultural loans and credits in order to boost up agricultural output in the country during the current new year," it continues. "The government is going to correct the mistakes it made in the past in implementing the land reforms programme. The people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan denounce the efforts of the new U.S. administration to directly interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

The editorial points out in the new year the relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union which have passed the test of time and reached a new level of friendship will be further consolidated.

"The Soviet Union is expected to boost up its economic and technical assistance to the revolutionary Afghanistan to enable the DRA to achieve the targets it has already set for the social, economic and cultural growth of the country. With the high targets set in the agricultural and industrial sectors of the national economy for the year 1981-82 it is hoped that the new year will be a year of progress, prosperity and further achievements by the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan," it concludes.

KABUL NEW TIMES REVIEWS ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

LD231048 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 22 Mar (BAKHTAR)--In an editorial on the DRA's budget and plan for the new Afghan year (begun March 21), Kabul NEW TIMES notes the high priority given to economic and social growth. Reviewing the performance of last year the paper writes: "Though it was a difficult year as far as the subversive activities of the imperialists were concerned, 1359 [1980] was a year of success and victory for the people of Afghanistan.

"During this year on the one hand the enemies of Sawr Revolution and the mercenaries and counter-revolutionaries were crushed and wiped out and on the other hand the volume of national products rose up compared with the preceding year 1358. The plan for 1359 has not only been realised hundred percent but in some fields greater success has been achieved than what was predicted in the plan period. In 1358 a total amount of 10.5 billion afghanis was invested. Of this amount 5.2 billion afghanis was from foreign aids and assistances, showing a marked increase over that in the preceding year 1358. With the investment made during the 1359 a number of projects went into operation in the interest of the development of the national economy of the country. Viewed from a broader angle, the increase introduced in the national products indicates that further possibilities have been provided as a result of the wise planning done by the DRA Government and the hard work of the industrious people of Afghanistan, paving the way for better implementation of the future development plans in the country."

About the new year's plan the editorial observes that its basic aim is to increase production on a larger scale compared with the current year. The main objective of the plan is to improve the living conditions of the toilers and workers in Afghanistan and to help earn higher income. Under this plan a relative increase in the industrial output is predicted. Furthermore, greater attention will be paid to the expansion of transport and communication networks in the country. Local and foreign trade will be increased considerably to meet the growing demand for development in different fields of public and private sectors for the national economy.

"The main target of agricultural development in the 1360 socio-economic development plan is to meet the growing needs of the people for foodstuffs on the one hand and enlarge the volume of raw materials for industry and exports on the other," points out the paper. "The plan envisages a total amount of agricultural output worth of 86.97 billion afghanis showing an increase of 2.93 billion afghanis compared with the current year 1359. In the industrial sector it is expected that vast and firm grounds will be prepared for the industrialisation of the country in the future. Possibilities will be explored to boost up industrial output and meet the needs of the developing national economy in the interest of the hard working people and toilers of Afghanistan. "According to the targets set in the industrial sector for 1360 the gross industrial output is expected to reach a total value of 32.6 billion afghanis showing an increase of 6.1 percent compared with the current year. According to the official data available it would be the first time in the history of the economic activity of Afghanistan when the relative share of the public and mixed sectors will be greater than the private sector. The public and mixed sectors will count for 51.7 percent of the total industrial output."

RADIO AFGHANISTAN BEGINS BROADCASTS IN PASHA'I

LD231110 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 22 Mar (BAKHTAR)--Radio Afghanistan started today a new half hour broadcast in Pasha'i language for Pasha'i speakers of the country. This is in accord with the cultural policy of DRA aimed at the development of the culture of diverse nationalities of the country. This programme will help the Pasha'i-speaking people in the further development and flourishing of their language and culture. Radio Afghanistan already broadcasts programmes in the Uzbek, Turkman, Baluchi and Nooristani languages.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT CITED

BK231642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] In India's view Pakistan's efforts to considerably expand its military capability can have an adverse effect on regional stability. It would also not be conducive to the creation of a climate of mutual confidence between India and Pakistan. The External Affairs Ministry, which has given this assessment in its annual report released today, also expressed concern at some of the actions of Pakistan which have tended to cause a set back to the process of normalization. Among these are Islamabad's repeated references to Kashmir in international forums and unwarranted interference in India's internal affairs.

The report expresses alarm over intensification of great power rivalry and the shifting of the theater of conflict away from Europe to the developing world, particularly Asia and Africa. The Indian Ocean has become an almost continuous arc of critical situations full of simmering tensions some of which erupted into armed conflict. Internal upheavals in some countries of the region provide external powers with an opportunity to exploit the situations and extend the political and military influence along with economic control of the people in nonaligned and developing countries.

Referring to the recent Nonaligned Conference in Delhi, the report says that consensus was achieved even on some issues where there were differing points of view. On Afghanistan, it reiterates India's opposition to the presence of foreign troops in any country and said that all forms of intervention in that country's internal affairs must stop.

In the economic sphere, India, as chairman of the Group of 77, continues its efforts to promote a dialogue with the objective of bringing about a more equitable international economic order.

INDIA CONVEYS CONCERN OVER ARMING OF PAKISTAN

BK231632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] India has conveyed its concern to several Western countries along with the United States over their proposed move to further increase the arms might of Pakistan. Indian envoys in these countries have been asked to persuade the governments concern to realize the grave potential of their move and the threat it would pose to the peace and stability of the region.

SINGH, MCNAMARA DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

BK241015 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0848 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] World Bank President Robert S. McNamara had an hour-long discussion with Union Minister for Agriculture Rao Birendra Singh on March 23 afternoon. McNamara complimented India on progress it has achieved in agricultural production in recent years. Birendra Singh informed the World Bank president that India this year expects 133 million tonnes of foodgrain production. This he said would be the highest ever and about a million tonnes more than the record production of 132 million tonnes in 1978-79.

The agriculture minister gave details of irrigation programme and said that every year it is proposed to bring about 2.5 million hectares of additional land under irrigation. The two sides discussed at length social forestry and soil conservation programmes.

The World Bank team was informed that India proposed to bring 33 per cent of the total area under forests as against the present level of 23 per cent. In 10 years it is proposed to cover 100 million hectares of additional land under forests.

The transport bottleneck India was facing in fertilizer movement also came in for discussion. McNamara evinced interest in national agricultural research project and forest management in Himalayas. The Indian side explained in detail the strategies for raising production of oilseeds and pulses.

MUKHERJEE, SFRY'S STAMBOLIC HOLD ECONOMIC TALKS

BK241034 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0852 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Ways and means of increasing and diversifying Indo-Yugoslav trade and industrial collaboration and joint ventures in third countries were discussed in New Delhi on March 23 when I. Stambolic, president of the Executive Council of Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Serbia, Yugoslavia, called on Pranab Mukherjee, union minister of commerce, steel and mines. The two ministers agreed that effective strategy for closer cooperation between the developing countries should be drawn to counter the protectionist tendencies growing in the developed countries. They also underlined the need to have a common approach among the developing countries in various international fora and negotiations for getting a better deal from the developing countries. The two ministers discussed joint ventures between the two countries, especially in the fields of leather goods and tractors. They felt that more areas should be identified for such cooperation.

COMMERCE MINISTRY REPORT SHOWS TRADE DEFICIT

BK221025 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 21 Mar (AFP)--India suffered an officially estimated overall deficit of 38,067 million rupees (over $4,758 million) in its foreign trade during the first 9 months (April-December) of the current financial year, 1980-81 which is ending this month-end. According to provisionally estimated figures shown in the annual report of the Commerce Ministry, exports during the period under review has been put at 46,134.7 million rupees (over $5,766 million), showing an increase of just 5.5 percent over the same period of the previous year, while imports were valued at 84,202.3 million rupees (over $10,525 million).

India's exports in 1979-80 rose by 11.6 percent to 64,491 million rupees (over $8,061 million). This was higher as compared to the growth rate of 6 percent in 1978-79 and 5.1 percent in 1977-78. The report attributes the slow growth in exports to both external and internal factors. The recessionary situation in the global economy and protectionist tendencies followed by certain developed countries affected India's exports adversely.

TIMES OF INDIA DEFENDS MILITARY SPENDING INCREASE

BK221323 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Mar 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Defense Expenditure"]

[Text] A remarkable feature of the initial reactions to Mr R. Venkataraman's budget for the coming year is the absence of any adverse comment on the Rs 400-crore increase in the defence expenditure over last year's revised budget estimates. These are, in turn, Rs 200 crores higher than the original allocation. Quite clearly the country agrees with the union finance minister that in "these difficult times, the reasonable requirements of defence should be fully met".

The proposed increase is modest enough on the face of it, especially in view of the constantly rising costs on the one hand and the deteriorating strategic environment on the other. What puts it in proper perspective is that, proportionate to the GNP, this country's defence expenditure is just over half of the global average and substantially lower than that of its two principal neighbours, China and Pakistan. In any case, much of the increase in defence spending in the coming year is unavoidable. For instance, nearly a fourth of the total increase, or a sum of Rs 100 crores, will be needed to meet the higher bill for the pays and pensions of the officers and men of the three armed forces and for housing them. A further increase of Rs 200 crores in the cost of stores required by the three armed forces is due partly to price escalation and partly to the acquisition of new equipment. Some of the armaments, including perhaps aircraft for both the navy and the air force, are bought on revenue account. The navy's ships are purchased, however, on capital account. This explains the increase of Rs 70 crores in the navy's capital budget. The money is needed to pay for the Kraschin-class frigates to be imported from the Soviet Union. Also an initial payment for the West German submarine to be imported later may have become necessary.

In all these cases, as in that of the acquisition of T-72 tanks for the army, it is necessary to appreciate that what is being attempted is the modernisation of the armed forces, not their expansion. All the new weapons systems are needed to replace those which have become obsolete. For instance, it is no secret that while only one Kraschin-class frigate has arrived so far, all the three earlier British-built 'R' class frigates, to say nothing of many other vessels, have already gone out of commission. Similarly, it will be quite some time before the Jaguar squadron of the IAF are operational. Until then, Pakistan, with its fleet of Mirages, will continue to have an edge over the IAF in terms of offensive capacity though this country will doubtless be better off as far as interceptor warplanes and transport aircraft are concerned. The army has yet to bridge the serious gap in its anti-tank missilery and to overcome the shortage of modern mountain guns. Then there is the problem of stepping up R and D so that, after filling the existing gaps through imports, the country can be self-reliant in designing and producing the next generation of weapons that would be needed by the end of the century. In view of these stupendous tasks no one can possibly object to the budget allocation for defence.

## BRIEFS

OFFSHORE HYDROCARBONS--The public sector Oil and Natural Gas Commission has so far discovered hydrocarbon worth over 600 billion rupees. The commission will invest over 18 billion rupees in offshore drilling by 1985. This will result in the saving of about 100 billion rupees. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 81 BK]

ZIAUL HAQ SPEAKS AT NATIONAL DAY PARADE

BK231201 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Pakistan Day is being celebrated all over the country today with great fervor and traditional enthusiasm.

In Rawalpindi, a grand joint services parade was held at the race course ground. President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq along with the visiting President Sekou Toure of Guinea reviewed the parade and took the salute.

Addressing the parade, the president called upon the nation to rededicate themselves on this auspicious occasion to the goal of working actively for the attainment of the basic objectives on the line of creation of Pakistan and not allowing any harm to come to the country.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the Pakistan Day this year has dawned under a certain atmosphere which was the creation of certain internal elements and a few external ill-wishers of the country, but he was sure that the armed forces and 80 million people of Pakistan were ready and fully capable to meet any situation. The nation, which had responded to the call for the creation of Pakistan 40 years ago, was today ready to make all sorts of sacrifices for its protection. They realized the importance of their country and valued their independence. They are fully aware that Pakistan is the last source to their national life and individual freedom and they will defend it at all cost. The country demanded from each one of them to face the situation, realize its delicacy and distinguish between friends and foes. They should crush the forces of (?terror and) violence and have complete faith in the Islamic ideology and wholeheartedly participating in the process of the enforcement of Nizam-e-Islam.

The president said due to the emergence of a certain change in the society, the nation drifted away from its basic ideology which resulted in an ideological crisis and their goal became obscure. He said when the present government was forced to take over the country's administration on 5 July 1977, they immediately paid attention to consolidating its ideological process. He emphasized that the geographical frontiers of the country could remain secure and strong only when its ideological frontiers were also not weak. That is why, he said, the present government took a number of concrete steps for the enforcement of Nizam-e-Islam. These were crowned with success by the grace of God and cooperation of the people.

The president pointed out that a special responsibility is devolved on the armed forces who had to prove not only that they were capable to fulfill the task they accept themselves but were fully determined to achieve their goal. He reminded that it was the armed forces which stood like a solid rock when the country was faced with any crisis in the past. He said while they have no aggressive designs against any country, the armed forces would prove an impregnable wall against any threat to the country.

AMBASSADOR TO INDIA SPEAKS ON SIMLA AGREEMENT

BK240325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] The Pakistan ambassador Abdul Sattar has said that the Simla Agreement provided a reliable and adequate framework for further development of good-neighborly relations between India and Pakistan.

In a message broadcast over ALL-INDIA RADIO on the occasion of Pakistan Day last night, he said that the 1972 agreement had served both India and Pakistan well and contact between the two countries has multiplied, resulting in about 300,000 persons traveling between the two countries last year. He said that the Simla Agreement envisaged settlement of outstanding differences by peaceful means. The Pakistan ambassador's message was later telecast on Delhi Durdarsan [television].

AFP: NATIONWIDE PROTEST FAILS; LEADER ARRESTED

BK231703 Hong Kong AFP in English 1557 GMT 23 Mar 81

[By Alain Faudeux]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, 23 Mar (AFP)--The nation-wide anti-government protest movement, launched by the political opposition today to coincide with Pakistan's National Day, turned out a failure throughout the country.

In Karachi, police arrested a leader of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), Khawaja Khairuddin, as he was about to address a meeting near the mausoleum of Pakistan's founder, Mohammad 'Ali Jinnah. A number of political activists with him also were arrested.

Informed sources said Mr Khairuddin has been placed under house arrest for three months. Opposition spokesmen said that thousands of people massed at the mausoleum before the meeting began, although most were probably Pakistanis come to meditate at the Jinnah tomb. Mr Khairuddin leads one of the Moslem League groups belonging to the nine banned political parties which have linked up in the MRD to put an end to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's military rule.

Yesterday police put Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, another opposition politician scheduled to address the meeting, under house arrest in his native village. Mr Jatoi, chief minister of Sind under the Bhutto government, was to have spoken on behalf of the also-banned Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. Also in Karachi, militant anti-regime medical students tried to burn a government-owned transport bus outside a local hospital, student sources said, but intervention by the fire-brigade saved the bus. Police later dispersed the demonstrators with tear-gas and baton charges. An unspecified number of demonstrators were arrested.

In Larkana, 300 miles (480 km) north of Karachi, supporters of the late Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto organised a partial general strike and burned a government-owned bus on the main highway. Leaders of the PPP were arrested in Sukkur city, sources said. In the Punjabi capital of Lahore, police encirclement of the venue for a scheduled opposition rally was enough to stop the meeting from going ahead. The MRD however has issued a call for another meeting this evening to be held at the city limits. In Peshawar, near the Afghan frontier, no demonstration could be seen outside the city, but opposition spokesmen said there had been gatherings inside mosques.

SAUDI PRINCE OUTLINES ECONOMIC COOPERATION PLANS

BK201634 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Saudi Prince Mohammad al-Faysal has said that Saudi Arabia wants to make an investment worth $5 billion in agriculture and mineral resources-based industries in Pakistan and other countries. He was addressing a news conference in Lahore this afternoon prior to his departure for Karachi. He said that 7 percent of the investment will be made in Pakistan. However, it will depend on an economic survey which will be conducted by teams of experts.

Prince Mohammad al-Faysal said that Pakistan is capable of assisting the Islamic world in the field of agriculture and industry. He said that Pakistan is capable of meeting the foodgrains requirements of the entire Islamic world. He also said that Pakistan has taken an important step toward establishing the Islamic economic system by introducing a banking system on the profit-sharing and loss-sharing basis. He said there might be some difficulties in this regard at the beginning, but the system will succeed in the long run. The Saudi prince said that Pakistan receives a major share of Saudi aid while Pakistan provides technical know-how and manpower for developmental projects in Saudi Arabia. He said that the cooperation between the two countries will increase with the passage of time. He said the two countries are cooperating in shipping and hopes that such joint projects will be started in other fields also.

JAPAN TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

BK221038 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Three agreements were signed in Islamabad today which provide for Japanese economic assistance to Pakistan worth a total of about $18.5 million. Under one of the agreements, Japan will provide debt relief and economic assistance in the form of a grant worth about $3.6 million. This is the third Japanese debt relief grant since the adoption of the UNCTAD resolution of 3 March 1978. The other two agreements envisage aid packages worth about $12 million and $2.9 million, respectively. The aid will be in the form of grant assistance for the purchase of fertilizers, agricultural machinery and hospital equipment.

DELHI CITES USSR PAPER ON PAKISTAN NUCLEAR TEST

BK201602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] A UNITED NEWS OF INDIA message, quoting the Soviet daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, says that Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq has issued instructions to test a nuclear device in the month of May. The explosion, which was to take place in November, has been advanced now, the report said.

DELHI: SWISS HALT NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES

BK201233 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] A Swiss firm, (Ovcor) Engineering, has said it has halted all deliveries of equipment for a nuclear installation in Pakistan after a bomb attack and threats against its executives. This was disclosed by a spokesman of the firm at Chur in Switzerland.

BANI-SADR RETURNS TO TEHRAN AFTER INSPECTING CAMPS

LD221804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief of the armed forces, who had gone to Fars Province to inspect the camps of the refugees from the war zones, left Fasa this afternoon for Boruzjan in Bushehr Province.

According to PARS, this afternoon the president and commander in chief of the armed forces went to inspect the Boruzjan camp and was welcomed by the Khuzestani compatriots there. According to this report, the president, accompanied by engineer Mir Salim, deputy minister of the interior in charge of the refugees foundation, and Dr Bezhadnia, director of the Red Crescent, inspected the hospital and a number of tents in this camp. While talking to the Khuzestani compatriots, he expressed the hope that they would return to their cities as soon as possible. The Khuzestani compatriots expressed their happiness at seeing the president in their midst at the start of the new year and spoke to him about their difficulties and shortages, asking that solutions be found. The president issued the necessary orders to the relevant officials.

The same report says that the president and his entourage left this camp for Bushehr at 1730 amid a warm farewell from the people.

During the president's visit to this camp, Khuzestani men, women and children who had surrounded the president shouted slogans such as "Greetings to Bani-Sadr" and expressed their warm feelings toward him.

According to the same report, the president and his entourage left Bushehr for Tehran at 1810 today.

BANI-SADR, FAKURI ADDRESS AIR FORCE CLUB MEETING

LD231750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Excerpts] According to PARS, in a ceremony attended by Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief, at the air force club on Piruzi Avenue in Tehran, the martyrs of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran were praised.

During this ceremony, also attended by Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the air force; Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, supervisor of the foundation of the oppressed; a number of pilots, cadets [homafar] and commanders of the air force; and families of the martyrs, POW's and those missing from the air force, Colonel Fakuri explained the activities of the air force during the war imposed by the mercenary Iraqi regime on Iran.

The president then made a speech praising the homeland's martyrs and the self-sacrifices of the air force pilots. The president referred to the struggles and resistance of the people of Iran in the face of foreign aggressors and pointed out the aggressions of the superpowers. He said: Under these circumstances and with these historic events [as heard], we created a great revolution, so that we could live on the battlefield free of the powers that are present on the scene; of course, this is not an easy and simple task.

The president then stressed the point that, of course, the continuation of the war is disadvantageous, but surrendering to the mill of the aggressor would be a hundred times more harmful. He said: From a 4-day resistance--which was thought to be something we could not do--we have reached a point where we want to impose our conditions on the enemy. We have come a long way.

Thanks to the zeal of the armed forces, we are completely confident; we are hopeful that, God willing, we will be able to force the enemy to accept these conditions, so that your children in the Islamic country and in the Islamic regime will never remember the humiliations of the past 2 centuries.

According to the same report, after dining with the families of the martyrs, the president presented gifts to the children of the martyrs, the POW's and those missing from the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

BANI-SADR CHAIRS SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL SESSION

LD231726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Supreme Defense Council held its first session of the new year tonight, with President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, commander in chief of the armed forces, chairing the session.

The meeting was also attended by Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister; Dr Mustafa Chamran and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representatives on the council; General Fallahi, acting chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Colonel Fakuri, defense minister and commander of the air force; and Morteza Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Current issues relating to the war, war strategy and the country's current situation were discussed.

The president was also presented with the list of decisions reached last year by the council, for the purpose of achieving final results.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES MUSTAFA CHAMRAN 23 MAR

GF231116 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the nation and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received brother Mustafa Chamran, his eminence's representative on the Supreme Defense Council and Majlis deputy for Tehran, this morning.

ARMY JOINT CHIEFS MEET GOLPAYEGANI, MONTAZERI

GF231126 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] The joint chiefs of staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran met with His Eminence Ayatollah ol-'Ozma Golpayegani in the holy city of Qom today. They then met with the jurisconsult and great struggler, His Eminence Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

RAJA'I LEAVES TO VISIT KERMAN, FARS REFUGEES

GF240719 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i left for the Provinces of Kerman and Fars this morning, to inspect refugee camps in Jiroft and Jahrom and to acquaint himself with the needs of the homeless citizens.

Brother Raja'i is accompanied by ministers, the Interior Ministry's political deputy and officials in charge of the affairs of the homeless.

FARS GOVERNOR GENERAL INTERVIEWED ON REFUGEES

LD201503 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Mar 81 p 15

[KEYHAN correspondent's report from Shiraz: "Disclosure By Governor General of Fars Province: 'Large-Scale Activity By Dissidents Aimed at Exacerbating Internal Problems and Weakening the Government in the Course of the War Has Been Thwarted'"]

[Excerpts] Governor General of Fars Mohammad Nabi Habibi followed up his attendance at the conference of the country's governors general in Lorestan with an exclusive interview granted to the KEYHAN correspondent in Shiraz; he replied to questions on the Khuzestani refugees, the land development organization, the general policy of the government and the club wielders.

On the conclusions reached by the seminar, the governor general said: "Security problems were discussed at the seminar and it was decided that there whould be more coordination between the security organizations. In addition, in view of the fact that groups opposed to the government have for some time been exacerbating the country's internal problems to weaken the government during the war, this matter was given particular prominence. It transpired that large-scale activity was undertaken for this purpose, but with the vigilance shown by the people and the authorities, this was fortunately discovered and nipped in the bud."

The governor general added: "We have evidence that the conspirators wished to create trouble in Fars by making a big thing out of unemployment, or out of problems caused by our refugee compatriots from Khuzestan.

"Discussions also took place at the seminar on the main outlines of the budget. It was proposed that formalities for the 1360 [March 1981-March 1982] development projects be finalized, so as to allow work on these projects to begin at the start of the new year."

On the subject of the refugees and problems over their food, accommodation, medical care, employment and education, it was decided that a study should be carried out and proposals should be presented at the seminar to be held in Tehran on 10 March.

On the subject of the acquisition of development credits and provincial funds, the governor general said: "The amount earmarked for the province depends on the war situation; after the funds have been allocated, a planning committee will be set up and will take action as necessary."

On the club wielders, the governor general said: "Clearly, no one believes that the country can be administered other than through the law, or that irresponsible individuals should run things. However, as the imam has indicated, club wielding also exists in the form of coercion exercised by the pen and the tongue; those who, under the pretext of opposing club wielding, themselves make use of such coercion in the press will get their answer, not from the club wielders, but from the masses."

In conclusion, the governor general of Fars replied as follows to the KEYHAN correspondent's question on the amount of credits allocated to the war victims: "Each province is allocated a share of the four billion [presumably rials] credit for war victims from the war victims foundation, in proportion to the problems it faces and the number of refugees it cares for. In Fars Province, we are now looking after 150,000 refugees.

RAFSANJANI CONCLUDES TOUR OF KHUZESTAN PROVINCE

LD231854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report from Ahvaz, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani left Ahvaz this afternoon for Tehran at the conclusion of his 2-day tour of Khuzestan Province.

Before leaving Ahvaz he told a Central News Bureau correspondent: I inspected the situation on the fronts and in the hospitals. The information I have collected on the region's general situation, God willing, I will discuss with my brothers in the Majlis and the Supreme Defense Council.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that as a result of his tour and the discussions he had during his visit to Mahshahr, Abadan and the armed forces and revolution guards' centers, he concluded that the imam's recent message had been very effective in giving the combatants peace of mind.

Commenting on the visits to Iran by various foreign delegations, he said: Visits by these delegations have had no effect on the war. He said: Our position is clear, and that is complete victory and the complete downfall of Saddam.

Mr Rafsanjani added: The enemy's recent attacks on Ahvaz and Dezful resulted in weakening the enemy; we want people to maintain their resistance and tolerance.

AFGHAN MOJAHEDIN, STUDENTS SEND NEW YEAR'S MESSAGES

GF211333 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] On the occasion of the new Hegira solar year 1360, the Muslim Afghan mojahedin have issued a statement extending congratulations and wishes to the venerable prophet, peace be upon him, Imam Khomeyni and to the heroic Iranian people. The statement said in part: The past year, in spite of its problems and miseries, has taught all the oppressed sectors, who are suffering from proverty and tyranny, a valuable national principle--the salvation of a society that has suffered for many centuries under despotism, slavery, injustice and combersome burdens. This has come through a unified Koranic uprising under the slogan "There is no god but God." The past year witnessed another development: the ability of all the Islamic liberation movements to act efficiently all over the world.

The Islamic societies union for Afghan students addressed a call to Imam Khomeyni and the Iranian people on the occasion of the new Hegira solar year. They extended congratulations to the imam of the nation and to the struggling Iranian Muslims. The call said in part: Last year, the world witnessed the steadfastness and confrontation of the soldiers of Islam on Iranian land, which is colored by the martyrs' blood, and on the bleeding land of Afghanistan. We hope that in the new year we will see more victories for the soldiers of Islam.

ARMENIANS CONGRATULATE KHOMEYNI ON NEW YEAR

GF221613 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] The Armenian diocese in Iran has sent a congratulatory cable to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the nation and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to officials on the occasion of the new Hegira solar year and the beginning of the 3d year of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

FIRE BREAKS OUT AT COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS

Security Headquarters Statement

LD240818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Statement 232 issued by the Tehran security headquarters]

[Text] In His exalted name. It is necessary to inform the dear Tehran citizens that the sounds of explosions which can be heard around Baharestan Square are due to a fire which broke out in one of the munition depots. The officials are trying to bring the fire and the explosions under control. We shall inform you of any additional details at the earliest opportunity.

Fire 'Under Control'

LD240745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran security headquarters announced that, fortunately, the fire in Baharestan Square [site of former Majlis building which is now used as the headquarters of the Central Revolution Committee] has come under control as the result of incessant efforts by officials of the fire brigade.

SAN'A' FRIDAY IMAM LAUDS REVOLUTION'S ACHIEVEMENTS

GF211921 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] According to reports, the Friday imam in San'a' explained the economic and other features of the Islamic government in his prayer sermon. He said: The best example for our government is the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the activities of the reconstruction crusade and the agricultural and transportation projects implemented in Iran after the revolution, he said: The roads that have been constructed during the 2 years of the revolution in Iran were not constructed during the 37-year rule of the buried shah.

The San'a' Friday imam said: Despite Eastern and Western plots and despite their venomous campaigns, these activities are an example of the attention devoted by the revolution. He added: Under Islam we achieve bliss in this life and in the life to come. Finally, the San'a' Friday imam hoped for the formation of a big Islamic state.

TEHRAN-ESFAHAN PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE CANCELED

LD211330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] The public relations office of the state railways announced today that, owing to the reduction of passengers between Tehran and Esfahan and because of the need to make more use of the train in carrying goods required by the country, beginning Sunday, 22 March, the Tehran-Esfahan train will be canceled.

TEHRAN VIEWS RECENT REARMAMENT OF GULF REGION

GF220949 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Gulf's Security and the Region's Stability]

[Excerpts] The past year was a year of unrest, disturbance and instability for the Middle East. In fact, it could be said that for the Middle East 1980 was the most dangerous year of the past decade.

This view has been confirmed by political observers who believe that 1980 was a most inauspicious year, particularly for the Persian Gulf region.

It is common knowledge that the imperialist United States was quick to react in showing its true face after observing that the future of the [word indistinct] and puppet regimes in the region were endangered by the ousting of the shah's administration and the success of the Islamic revolution. The United States demonstrated its stand by deploying its military strength in the Indian Ocean in order to directly control the region.

Both Western and Eastern countries are greatly concerned about the danger the Persian Gulf faces. Even White House officials have expressed concern that the spreading clashes in the region may possibly lead to a confrontation between the two superpowers. Despite this, however, Iraq's forceful offensive against Iran has led the United States to reinforce its strength and to deploy its fleets in the Gulf and Indian Ocean under the pretext that U.S. interests are endangered.

The military units, called the Rapid Deployment Force, have been reinforced to such an extent that their commander in chief has said in very clear terms that they are now capable of successfully carrying out operations that would have seemed impossible 6 months ago.

The Soviet Union's initiatives must not be forgotten either. The Soviets have sent one of their most powerful fleets--consisting of (?33) vessels--to the region. In 1979, the Soviet Union's arms sales to foreign countries totalled (?$8.4 billion). Meanwhile, the region's oil-producing countries have spent $350 billion on modern weapons. However, they are uncertain that they are capable of using them at all. This figure is three times the amount of the Western world's budget deficit for the past 7 years.

In addition to all this, the Arab states have been making serious efforts during the past few months to set up a joint military federation, an Arab military-industrial complex. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE set up a similar organization a few years ago in Egypt with a joint investment of $1.4 billion. However, this organization, dissolved as a result of the Camp David agreement, made no progress. Now, the new initiative--which has been suggested by Kuwait and has been supported brother Arab states--is being put into effect. Although the intention behind the move seems to be to strengthen solidarity among Arab states and to maintain the region's security and stability, the United States wants to use it to enhance its policy toward the region and to safeguard its interests. The United States' aims can be summed up as follows: to have absolute control over the sealane through which the Western world receives 70 percent of its oil supplies and to maintain the puppet regimes in the region. However, the question is whether, after the success of the Iranian Islamic revolution, the unprecedented amount of petrodollars invested in arms will suffice to prevent the collapse of the reactionary regimes in the region.

AD-DA'WAH PARTY MEMBERS ARRESTED IN IRAQ

GF210634 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Iraqi mujahidin sources in London have said that the Iraqi Ba'thist authorities recently arrested four Ad-Da'wah Party members in Basra and put them in jail. The sources added that the four prisoners were able to disarm an Iraqi security guard and kill 27 Ba'thist security men prior to their arrest.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 441- 444

441: 19-20 Mar Fighting

LD210030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Communique 441 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The heroic and revolutionary Muslim nation of Iran. Your military brothers consider it their duty, on the eve of the new year, to thank you, honest dear ones, for your unreserved support, assistance and endeavors during the past year for the selfless soldiers of Islam. Your military brothers in the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have today [word indistinct], thanks to the holy teachings of the Koran and the guidance of the imam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and unreserved support from you, the real supporters of the Islamic revolution, to make the new year the year of fruition and victory of Islam and of our dear homeland, Iran.

The public is hereby informed of a report on military operations and activities and the situation at the battlefronts in the course of the past 24 hours:

1. In the Ahvaz region, as a result of artillery fire directed by the Army of Islamic Republic of Iran at enemy positions, two tanks, one personnel carrier, two loaders and two Iraqi invader ammunition vehicles were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed and wounded.

2. In the Khuninshahr region, in the course of an exchange of heavy weapons fire, a number of Saddam's soldiers' positions were destroyed and considerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy. In the course of these operations, two defenders of the Islamic revolution were injured.

3. On the Abadan front, the valiant fighters of the armed forces destroyed two ammunition dumps, one [word indistinct], one mortar and one aggressor machinegun position, and killed and wounded a number of Saddam's army personnel. The Iraqi mercenaries retaliated, once again bringing residential quarters of Abadan under their artillery and mortar fire, destroying a number of residences, units and shops. A government building was also damaged. In the course of this attack, 4 dear Abadan residents were martyred and 20 heroes were injured.

5. Valiant units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Gendarmerie, by mounting fire on enemy positions in the (Seybeh) and (Seyhan) regions, inflicted losses and casualties on Saddam's army. In the course of these operations, an Iraqi observation tower was destroyed and a number of aggressors were wounded.

6. Our self-sacrificing forces brought the enemy's advancing forces on the Al-Faw-Basra road under their fierce fire and inflicted losses and casualties on them.

7. Once again, an Iraqi soldier freed himself from the blaspheming army's captivity and, by surrendering to his Muslim Iranian brothers in the Sar Dasht garrison, came under Islam's protection.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

442: Southern, Western Fronts

LD211856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Communique 442 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: Some of yesterday's and today's operations by the self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are brought to your attention, as follows:

1. On the western fronts:

In the border region of Ilam, from the Leyk axis toward the Helali junction, our helicopters destroyed 7 enemy tanks and 15 foxholes. More than 150 Iraqi mercenaries were killed.

In the region of Meymak, at 1500 on Friday, yesterday, Saddam's army personnel deserted their positions and trenches and fled when faced by our brave combatants. When our forces went in pursuit, 200 cowardly Iraqi personnel were killed and 10 tanks, 1 ammunition truck, 2 ammunition depots and more than 30 trenches of Saddam's armed forces were destroyed. The bodies of 16 Iraqi mercenaries, which had been left behind, were buried with full religious ceremonies.

Yesterday, in the region of Marivan, artillery fire from the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions destroyed three mortars and several trenches. Several Iraqi personnel were either wounded or killed.

Yesterday, 20 March, between 1400 and 1900, the Sayyid Sadiq garrison, inside Iraqi territory, came under heavy artillery fire from our forces. As a result, 30 percent of the installations in this garrison and several vehicles were destroyed.

At 1230 today, two aggressive Iraqi MiG's violated Ilam's airspace and fired two rockets at two different regions of the city. As a result, 1 7-year-old child from the city was martyred and 42 people were injured. The 42 people injured as a result of this crime were taken to hospital. Five private houses were destroyed and several other houses were partly damaged.

2. On the southern fronts:

On 20 March, the enemy opened artillery fire on our forces' positions along the Darkhovin-Mared front. Our forces returned the fire, destroying seven enemy foxholes, five trenches, three mortar positions, two ammunition dumps, three tanks, one cannon and one observation position. About 40 infidels were either killed or wounded.

Our brave combatants opened fire, destroying one enemy temporary ammunition depot [passage indistinct] and various types of weapons in the western part of Khuninshahr. Six Ba'thist mercenaries were killed and 15 were wounded.

At midday yesterday, two enemy planes flew low over the (Raqaqiyeh) region, but anti-aircraft fire from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran forced them to flee.

The forces of blasphemy launched a missile attack on Ahvaz at 1230 today. As a result, 25 houses were destroyed. So far, there is no accurate figure available on the number of casualties.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

443: Iraqi Shelling of Cities

LD221750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Communique 443 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In His exalted name. Our warriors continue, decisively and alertly and in a manly way, to battle the aggressors against the sanctity of the Islamic homeland.

While the army of blasphemy, during the first days of the new year, has intensified its artillery attacks on the residential areas of our country's southern towns and committed many crimes, Islam's troops, controlling their enthusiasm, continue to refrain from engaging in air, missile and artillery attacks against residential areas of the Muslim Iraqi nation. Saddam's mercenary troops, who now have no alternative but to flee and accept defeat in battle, have in order to bring the determined nation to its knees and force the army of Islam to carry out retaliatory attacks on residential areas in Iraq and thus give a bad name to the Islamic nature of the revolution, extended their attacks on cities, so that what they have lost on the battlefronts may be made up for in this cowardly and criminal manner.

Events on the battlefields and cities in the war zone over the past 24 hours are as follows:

1. This morning enemy artillery shelling of residential areas in Ahvaz martyred 8 civilians and injured 23 others. Several shops were also destroyed by this crime.

2. Enemy heavy artillery also attacked Abadan yesterday, causing damage to residential areas and oil installations, raising 5 Abadan warriors to the lofty status of martyrdom and injuring 23 others.

3. Yesterday at midday, Dezful came under artillery attack by Saddam's army, but fortunately neither material damage nor casualties resulted.

4. In response to the mercenary Saddam's criminals at 1342 today, one Iraqi aircraft was hit by the swift pilots of the Air Force of the Iranian republic over the western part of the country and was destroyed.

5. Over the past 24 hours, thanks to attacks launched by our warriors in the western part of the country, 8 Iraqi invaders were killed and 21 injured in the Mehran region. Two ammunition dumps and one artillery piece belonging to mercenary Saddam's army were also destroyed in this region.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

## 444: Iraqi Desertions Noted

LD231800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Communique 444 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Militant, Muslim Iranian nation. The combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran alertly strike decisive and crushing blows at the troops of mercenary Saddam and in this task they are ready to take part in the great divine test. Some aspects of the operations on 22 and 23 March are hereby made public, as follows:

On the southern fronts:

1. On the Abadan-Mahshahr axis yesterday, int[illegible]re from our warriors completely destroyed 1 Iraqi army tank, 5 bunkers, 2 art[illegible]ieces, 1 fuel tanker and 3 ammunition dumps, killing or wounding 50 enemy forces.

2. Today our heroic units directing the[illegible] on enemy positions on Abadan's Fayyaziyeh front, inflicted casualties and losses [illegible] enemy. In these operations, one large Iraqi Army ammunition dump was set on [illegible]nd destroyed.

3. Naval units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran brought enemy observation positions in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr under small-arms fire yesterday and, as a result of having destroyed several trenches, killed at least three of Saddam's troops.

4. Yesterday afternoon on one of the fronts in the Ahvaz region, one tank belonging to the Iraqi aggressors was destroyed, thanks to our heroes' artillery fire. In addition, losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy on this front.

5. The exchange of fire on the Susangerd front has continued and our heroes have set one ammunition dump in (Dehlaviyeh) afire and killed or wounded at least 10 Iraqis. In this clash, two of our military brothers were martyred.

6. On the Dezful front, the bravery and efforts of our combatants in confronting enemy elements were conspicuous. Since this morning, 23 March, artillery units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been active in shelling enemy positions; according to reports, losses and casualties inflicted on the enemy have been considerable.

On the Karkheh front, our combatants' fire destroyed one enemy ammunition dump and one vehicle, killing or wounding six enemy troops. In the (Jesr-e Naderi) region, three trenches belonging to Saddam's troops were destroyed and a number of men were killed or wounded. A minefield has also been discovered and defused on one of the fronts in the Dezful region.

In the western part of the country:

1. Yesterday and today, an intense exchange of artillery was in progress in Meymak, (Parkabat), Shur-e Shirin, Kan-e Sakht and Konjacham, but accurate figures on enemy losses and casualties are not yet available. Ground forces' artillery fire in the (Harimeh) region has also killed and injured a number of enemy forces.

2. Over the past 48 hours, another four discontented Iraqi soldiers and one civilian, who had reached the end of their rope because of the oppression of the Iraqi Ba'th regime, sought refuge in our Islamic homeland and were welcomed at Sar Dasht.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS PENETRATE IRAQI BORDER NEAR ILAM

LD222346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Summary] PARS cites an Islamic Revolution Guards Corps statement reporting the guards' operations on the southern and western fronts over the past 2 days. The statement reports that the guards penetrated Iraqi territory from Ilam, engaged an Iraqi patrol, killed a number of them and captured several light arms from them. On the Konjancham axis a number of enemy weapons were destroyed; 20 servicemen manning them were killed and another 60 were injured. Some hills under the control of counterrevolutionaries and Iraqi mercenaries in the Javanrud region were recaptured in commando operations yesterday.

In the Abadan region, an enemy tank, an ammunition dump and a trench have been destroyed. Mortar shelling on an enemy position in Farsiat destroyed one enemy tank and an ammunition dump.

RADIO IRAN REVIEWS EVENTS OF PAST YEAR

NC211559 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a few hours the year 1359 will end and the new year will begin. The year that is passing will be recorded as one of the most sinister in our country's eventful history and its terrifying memories will remain in the hearts of our country's present generation. Oh that the people's immense movement would not have been diverted and today we could be reviewing the report card of popular rule, but alas we have to scrutinize the report card of a regime that has left nothing but shame and disgrace.

Each passing day of this abominable year was more sinister than the day before, and each (?moment) that passed brought more adversities. The new year started with economic boycotts against the Iranian people. The country was facing bankruptcy and unemployment because of the [word indistinct] of the Islamic (?people) and was (?punished) by the society of nations because of [words indistinct] Khomeyni's terrorist acts. High prices and famine resulted.

In the second month of this sinister year, the puppet regime of the foreigners, on the orders of its masters, started its attacks against the country's (?educational) centers and closed the doors of the universities with clubs and bullets.

The month of Khordad witnessed the [word indistinct] crushing of the Kurdish strugglers. In this month Sanandaj was completely bombed and thousands of the defenseless, innocent people of the town were (?killed).

In the month of Tir Khomeyni sent his terrorists abroad to assassinate Shahpur Bakhtiar, his opponents' only hope. Fortunately, thank God, his evil plans failed and the leader of the National Resistance Movement escaped safely.

In the fifth month of 1359, Mordad, 145 brave officers and hundreds of other brave freedom-seekers of this country were sent to the gallows. The bloodthirsty ruling regime thought that with this dastardly massacre it could crush the struggle of those seeking freedom.

In Shahrivar 1359, this half-dead nation received the most abominable blow of this treacherous regime when foreingers attacked Iranian territory. And in Mehr, a number of large cities were occupied by the Iraqi Army. Khomeyni's imposed war is still continuing. The opportunism of this egoistic mullah and his sick brain which thought of exporting his revolution gave Iraq the chance to advance and attack Iran.

In Aban, the turn came once again to the pitiless killing of the Kurdish brothers and the massacre of our Kurdish brothers in the villages of [names indistinct].

In Azar, it was time to kill the religious minorities. In this month more than 500 Iranian Jews, Christians and Baha'is were either burned alive or thrown into dungeons.

The month of Dey saw the bribing of the new American Government. In this month, the disgraceful deal for returning the hostages was signed and Khomeyni sent the hostages back in return for a small part of Itan's assets, and that after having disgraced and dishonored Iran for 14 months.

WIth the mounting of anti-Khomeyni demonstrations throughout the country, the month of Bahman can be said to be the month of the crushing of street demonstrators. Only in Tehran, Esfahan, Mashhad and Tabriz hundreds of freedom seekers were attacked by club wielders. Khomeyni thinks that by throwing his rabid dogs at the people he can put off the fire of opposition. But this is a futile thought.

The twelfth month of 1359, the last moments of which are now passing, has witnessed the domestic wars of mercenaries who question each other in front of the people because of their personal opportunism.

May the new year bring the ending of this sinister adventure and may these mercenaries all be overthrown by the united efforts of the people. In these same moments next year, may we review the report card of a popular regime.

IRAN'S EMBASSY IN PARIS REPORTEDLY RAIDED

NC211752 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] A large number of Iranian students and residents of Paris raided Khomeyni's embassy in Paris on Wednesday, tore down Khomeyni's pictures and lit a bonfire. Celebrating the chahrshanbeh Suri tradition, the patriotic youths, students and Iranians residing in Paris gathered in (?front of the regime's embassy), set Khomeyni's pictures on fire and jumped over the bonfire. The Iranian [word indistinct] youths ended the interesting tradition, the fire of which was lit with Khomeyni's pictures, without any clashes with the French police and while hundreds of French citizens were watching.

NVOI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

20 Mar Commentaries

TA201935 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 20 March carried two commentaries:

The first, NVOI's New Year's message, said: Our heroic nation has stepped into the threshhold of the third year and the third spring of freedom; a new year without the shah and without the elements, misfortunes and pains resulting from the domination of the hated Pahlavi dynasty and its American masters. These days everywhere and in every gathering the topic of discussion is the new year and the third spring of freedom. In other words this new spring of freedom gives inspiration and power to our people and calls on everyone to struggle and strive to safeguard and preserve the independence and freedom of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Today we note the absence of thousands of crimson-shrouded dear ones who sacrificed their lives on the path of Iran's independence and freedom and for securing the victory of the glorious revolution of the Iranian nation. By holding memorial ceremonies for these martyrs at Behesht-e Zahra and other burial places of the martyrs, our nation once more declares its belief in the necessity to defend freedom and independence and its resolute determination to safeguard the gains of the revolution. May the memory of all the dear ones and the martyrs on the path of Iran's independence and freedom live forever. "The staff of the radio of the National Voice of Iran extend congratulations to all the dear compatriots, to all the toilers and to each and every member of the Iranian nation on the occasion of this third new year and third spring of freedom, and wish success to our heroic and combatant nation in the struggle against the counterrevolution--in every color and guise--against the elements and agents of world-devouring U.S. imperialism and over the black and aggressive forces."

The second commentary entitled "May the New Year Be Auspicious For All," said: The ancient Nowruz has arrived and the New Year messenger has stepped onto our soil. The ancient Nowruz is among those precious and historical traditions of our nation that is linked to the existence and life of the Iranian people and the various Iranian nationalities. Our homeland's people have always and under all conditions welcomed the New Year despite the various preoccupations and misfortunes, because they rightly recognize Nowruz as the manifestation of the greatness of the Iranian spirit and of respect to creative work.

Currently the new year is being celebrated in our homeland under new conditions, during an era when the book of the hated imperial system has been delivered to the dustbin of history forever. The glorious revolution of our nation has brought the real Nowruz feast as a gift to our nation. Praise be to our heroic people, praise be to the glorious revolution of our nation which has presented us with a Nowruz. One must be hopeful that in the new year our nation will take fresh steps on the path that it has chosen under the imam's leadership, namely, in the popular and anti-imperialist line, and will foil the multicolored plots of the counterrevolution and the liberals who are thirsty for the return of the past ominous era. One must hope that the new year, as the imam has said, will be a year of the rule of law. May the new year be auspicious for all. We wish victory for our dear nation in the battle against the counterrevolution and its masked and unmasked elements.

21 Mar Commentary

TA211921 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 21 March carried a commentary entitled: "A True Solution to the Present Differences." It said one of the main characteristics of the past year was the intensification of confrontation between the forces opposed to the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line under the pretext of liberalism and the true forces of the revolution. In addition to the black counterrevolutionary forces, such as the dependent capitalists, feudals and big landowners--groupings which at the beginning of the revolution, based on the narrow-sighted interests of their class, were compelled to take steps toward the revolution--have recently unmasked their faces and have overtly placed themselves on the line opposing that of the imam, under the banner of liberialism. This is neither an unnatural nor a surprising matter because from the beginning of the revolution it was obvious that all the forces and groups particpating in the revolution did not possess a unique goal for all the phases of the revolution. If the dissatisfication of the big capitalists and feudalists with the Pahlavi regime stemmed from their inability to partake in the shah's plunder, the reason for the uprising of millions of oppressed city and village-dwellers against the corrupt regime was completely different. The latter, who were deprived of all their belongings under the domination of exploiting capitalists and their supporters--world-devouring U.S. imperialism--saw their salvation only through ending the rabid domination of the cursed exploiting classes and their overseas masters. Thus their uprising secured the victory of the revolution.

During the second year after the victory of the revolution, the deep differences between the goals, forces and classes which had participated in the revolution were intensified in an unprecedented way and finally led to the intervention of the imam. The true forces of the revolution rightly believe that ending these differences merely with recommendations and counseling is not possible.

The followers of the imam's democratic, popular and anti-imperialist line consider putting an end to the domination of the capitalists and feudals as the revolution's principal duty. If Mr Bazargan--leader of the Iranian liberals' line--exerts every effort to maintain the interests of the capitalists and big landowners, and also exerts efforts to return U.S. imperialism to free and independent Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, as a representative of the imam's line, believes that the government should protect the oppressed in order to be on the main line of the revolution.

It is an error to think that the present differences are superficial or differences of style between this or that government figure. The present differences stem from class (?contradictions) existing in the present conditions of our homeland's revolution and their resolution is possible only through the final victory of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line over that of the liberals.

22 Mar Commentary

TA222201 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 22 March carried a commentary entitled: "The Legal Demands of the Workers and Our Homeland's Present Special Conditions." It stated that the counterrevolutionaries and their U.S. supporters pay special heed to creating chaos and strikes in production units. Recent events have shown that counterrevolution by way of U.S. Maoist groupings, especially groupings such as Razmandegan, Peykar or former Savakists and people who have fallen into the trap of the liberals, has created an atmosphere of distrust and discontent in production units according to the plan of the United States. Of course, all these efforts of counterrevolution and U.S. Maoist groupings have been foiled as a result of the revolutionary vigilance of the struggling workers and the realistic measures of those responsible. But reality is such that these elements try to take advantage of the discontent of workers and the ignorance of a limited group of workers who are uninformed about the scope of the plans of the foes of the toilers.

The aware and revolutionary workers of our homeland know well that under the present sensitive conditions they carry heavy and important duties, the safeguarding of revolutionary gains and thwarting the plots of counterrevolution and their U.S. supporters. These workers are aware that the majority of the present difficulties stem from subversive activities and the plots of word-devouring U.S. imperialism and their allies: dependent capitalists, big landowners and the liberals. They are also aware that these difficulties have been doubled due to the war imposed on our region by U.S. imperialism and its agents. Thus, they are only able to raise their legal demands in the framework of the revolution's interests.

Our revolutionary workers (?believe) that under the present conditions slowdowns and strikes are not only to the detriment of the revolution but to the advantage of counterrevolution. But the responsible officials should also help the workers increase productivity and create an atmosphere of trust as well as secure the legal demands of the toilers. According to constitutional law, all workers and employees of all the production units have the right to organize their trade unions. These unions are the best means for meeting the demands of the workers, for explaining their rights, for increasing productivity and for showing means to eradicate shortcomings. Trade unions can also prevent the infiltration of counterrevolution into the ranks of the workers. The struggling, vigilant and revolutionary workers of our homeland should double their revolutionary awareness under the present conditions and pay heed to the fact that the safeguarding of the revolution's gains and the thwarting of its plots are a current issue in our homeland.

23 Mar Commentaries

TA231959 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 23 March carried two commentaries.

1. The first commentary was entitled: "How To Foil Counterrevolutionary Plots." The monopoly-seeking, superficiality and ignorance of some authorities who often aim the pointed edge of their attacks against the true revolutionary forces and who, with their actions, practically support counterrevolution, are the reason for the provocations of counterrevolution and its subversive activities. Our people have seen the fruits of these activities in Kordestan, Azarbayjan, Gonbad and Sistan va Baluchestan, and today counterrevolutionary plots have spread to the province of Khorasan. In Khorasan, armed khans and remnants of the former regime are busily engaging in subversive activities and fanning discord, creating disturbances and voicing propaganda against the leader of the revolution and forces supporting the revolution.

We cannot disregard the bitter fact that the so-called refugee Afghans participate in plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran along with other counterrevolutionaries in Khorasan, as they do in Sistan va Baluchestan. One of the (?covers) cowardly exploited by counterrevolution for strengthening convulsion in this region is fanning the imaginary differences between Sunnis and Shi'ites; whereas it is not a question of Sunnism and Shi'iism but of revolution and counterrevolution. In many parts of Khorasan Province the counterrevolution is preparing vast counterevolutionary activities in an organized and united front. In the Bojnurd or Quchan Mountains, bands of counterrevolutionaries are active and are receiving military training.

In the face of the increasing counterrevolutionary activities in Khorasan, the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran should take just measures. The revolution should be deepened for the benefit of city and village toilers not only in Khorasan but all over the country. Land should be put at the disposal of farmers and land reform implemented. It is only in this way that the revolution will be able to attract the masses of farmers and foil counterrevolutionary plots. Any delay in the solution of state problems all over the country and namely in Khorasan is to the advantage of the counterrevolution.

The second commentary was entitled "The United States Is Feverishly Engaged in a Pact-Making Policy." The new U.S. administration is exerting every effort to aggravate international convulsions. Washington has thus increased the arms race and its delivery of arms to convulsive regions and is expanding its military presence in the Near East, Persian Gulf and other parts of the world. It is feverishly engaged in concocting new military pacts and exerting efforts to attract allies among its stooges to these pacts; especially in the Near East and Persian Gulf region. Why has the Persian Gulf attracted the special attention of the United States and why does the United States want to concentrate its unprecedented military activity in this region?

The obvious answer is that, as in the past, what mostly attracts the attention of the United States is the oil wealth of the Persian Gulf countries. U.S. monopolies play a major role in oil dealings and make huge profits. The new administration is continuing Carter's doctrine of allegedly safeguarding U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf and securing the free passage of oil through the Strait of Hormuz by dispatching a large naval force. Everyone is aware, however, that these U.S. allegations are pure (?lies) and cannot frighten anyone. If in this connection we want to speak of serious threats, it is the vast U.S. naval force in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf that threatens the security of the passage of oil since the security of the Strait of Hormuz cannot be maintained by transforming the Persian Gulf into a powder keg. It is quite clear that by expanding its military forces in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf, the United States is pursuing long-term goals--establishing military control over the extraction and export of the oil of Persian Gulf countries and, if necessary, occupying the oil interests of these countries.

The United States has not refrained from concocting a pact with countries of the Persian Gulf and the treacherous Qabus of Oman--the initiator of such a pact--has entered the arena. According to his plan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates should be members of this pact. In all probability Pakistan too will be a member of this military pact, but despite the efforts of U.S. imperialism and its stooges, the democratic, freedom-seeking and anti-imperialist current is being strengthened in the Persian Gulf countries and these countries decisively condemn the U.S. pact-making policy.